Winding up of co-operative banks in Gujarat

†1709. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank has directed the Registrar, Co-operative Societies to wind up some co-operative banks in Gujarat due to charges of non-compliance of banking provisions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has requisitioned/granted sanction to Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS), Gujarat under Section 115A of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961 to liquidate the following six co-operative banks in Gujarat in view of their precarious financial position:

(i) The Bhavnagar Welfare Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhavnagar.

(ii) The Janata Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Dholka.

(iii) The General Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad.

(iv) Santram Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nadiad.

(v) Visnagar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Visnagar.

(vi) Charotar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Anand.

Pension insurance scheme for senior citizens

†1710. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce pension insurance scheme for senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when this scheme is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the number of persons likely to be benefited from the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Varishtha

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pension Bima Yojana, a pension plan for senior citizens, has been launched all over the country on 14th July, 2003. The scheme is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and provides for pension at return of 9%. The salient features of the scheme are given below:—

Eligibility:

- Indian citizens aged 55 years and above are eligible.
- One person from a family can apply. The family comprises of spouse, minor children and dependants.
- Any valid age proof would be accepted by LIC.

Benefits:

- Pension during the life-time of the pensioner.
- In the event of death of the pensioner, purchase price will be returned to the nominee.
- Minimum pension Rs.250/- per month and maximum pension Rs.2,000/- per month.
- Mode of payment of pension—Monthly, Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly as opted.

Premium: For monthly pension single premium payable in lump sum—minimum Rs.33,335/- and maximum Rs.2,66,665/-.

Exit Option: After 15 years, the pensioner has the option to withdraw from the scheme. In that event, the entire purchase price would be returned to him.

Loan: Upto 75% of the total deposited premium will be allowed in the form of a loan after the policy has completed 3 years. The rate of interest on the loan will be determined by the LIC from time to time.

(d) All citizens above the age of 55 years are eligible under the scheme.

Income Tax exemption to senior citizens

1711. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: